

Purpose

Center of Expertise for the Preservation of Historic Buildings and Structures

Project Plans & Specifications

The Army Corps of Engineers' Center of Expertise (CX) Preservation of Historic Buildings and Structures has a highly trained staff experienced in the preparation of architectural plans and specifications for preservation, restoration and renovation projects. Plans and specs can be prepared for...

- Public bid
- RFP (Request for Proposals)
- Governmental contracts

The CX has prepared drawings and specifications for the rehabilitation and repair of numerous historic buildings and structures, both military and civil. A prime example is the Lake Washington Ship Canal in Seattle, Washington. Constructed by the Corps of Engineers in the early 1900's, the ship canal includes the well-known and heavily visited Hiram M. Chittenden Locks, with its numerous historic buildings. The project was placed on the National Register as an Historic District in 1978. The restoration project at the locks consisted mainly of repairing deteriorated concrete surfaces and replacing some non-historic aluminum windows with wood windows true to the original structure's construction. Each building was examined to determine the extent and type of deterioration and to quantify the amount of surface area in need of cleaning and repair. Existing drawings were noted to reflect the extent of the work and new drawings prepared to show repair details. Other preservation projects the CX has been involved in have required extensive historical research. For the Army's Fort Lewis Military Museum, in Washington State, a turn-of-the-century hotel was completely restored to its historic character using a copy of a 1919 photo. The CX has also developed guide specifications for historic preservation. Among these are four guide specs providing current information on the materials, installation and acquisition of four building systems commonly used in historic buildings: Copper Sheet Metal (Flashing); Clay Tile Reroofing; Slate Reroofing; and Wood Window Repair and Rehabilitation. A second series is also being developed covering Demolition and Salvage of Historic Materials; Restoration of Concrete in Historic Structures; and Surface Preparation for Painting of Wood and Metal in Historic Structures. For both interior and exterior renovations, the CX can prepare plans and specifications that incorporate the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for historic renovation while bringing buildings up to current standards and building codes. For example,

- modifications for handicapped accessibility,
- correcting exit deficiencies,

- asbestos removal
 - replacement of water and sewer systems and all plumbing fixtures
 - replacement of entire electrical system, including lighting
 - provision for new telephone and computer cabling tray system
 - replacement of fire sprinkler systems, alarm and smoke detection
 - seismic upgrade
- Environmental protection and compliance with applicable environmental law and regulation, both Federal and State, are also an integral part of the plans and specifications prepared by the CX.

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